खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत सिंह) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) भारतीय खाद्य निगम की प्रचालन लागत में मुख्यतया वसूली प्रांसगिक खर्चे, वितरण लागत और बफर स्टाक की रख-रखाव लागत शामिल है। प्रति क्विंटल दरें उपाबन्धों में दर्शायी गयी है। [देखिए परिशिष्ट 175 अनुपत्र सं0 7,8 और 9]

(ग) भाग (ख) के उत्तर को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता। दरों में वृद्धि के लिए मुख्य कारण है – सामान्य मुद्रास्फीति, न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्यों में वृद्धि ब्याज दरों और भाड़ा दरों में परिवर्तन।

58. *[Cancelled]*

Control on essential commodities

59. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in southern region of India til oil is available at a cost of Rs. 70 per kg. and dal at a rate of Rs. 35 per kg.; and

(b) if so, what steps Government pro pose to take to control the prices of these commodities of daily use in a big way?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) As per available information the wholesale prices of til oil during the year 1995 were ranging from Rs. 33.75 to Rs. 54.20 per kg. and dal from Rs. 20.20 to Rs. 31.00 per Kg. in most parts of the southern India.

The Government has been monitoring the prices of pulses and edible oils on a continuous basis. Edible oils are being imported on a regular basis to reduce the gap between demand and supply.

Because of wide gap between demand and supply, import of pulses has been placed on OGL with 5% reduced Customs duty. Import of pulses range between 4-6 lakh tonnes per annum against a gap of 2-3 million tonnes between demand and supply and hence this is not adequate to bring down the prices of pulses in the domestic market. Government is, however, taking all possible steps to increase production of pulses and oil seeds.

Committee on welfare measures for Beedi Workers

60. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:
SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee under his Ministry enquired into the welfare measures of Beedi Workers;

(b) whether officials of his Ministry gave evidence before such a Committee;

(c) whether officials of his Ministry favour cigarettes over beedi;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No Sir. However, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour & Welfare held a detailed discussion last year on the welfare of beedi workers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Complaints regarding export of poor quality tea

61. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints have been received from some countries regarding export of poor quality tea to them;

(b) the total quantity of tea rejected together with its market value, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost the export of best quality tea from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No complaints have been received in the

recent past regarding export of sub-standard tea from any country. However, some complaints were received by Tea Board in 1993 against a few exporters regarding export of sub-standard and inferior quality of tea to Russia and other CIS countries. Action was taken by the Tea Board against such exporters under the provisions of the Tea (Distribution & Export) Control Order, 1957.

(c) Steps taken to boost exports of tea include promotional campaigns through Tea Board's offices abroad. These consist of (i) participation in trade fairs /exhibitions; (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness towards various unique characteristics of Indians teas; (iii) media campaign to popularise Indian tea through the Tea Board marketing symbol; and (iv) support to various foreign brands containing Indian tea. A part of the expenditure incurred by importers for promotional campaigns is met from the Tea Board's budget. Tea Board has also undertaken Darjeeling and Assam Logo campaign in U.K. alongwith brand promotion schemes abroad to popularise classic Indian teas.

Representation by Beedi Workers

62. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from beedi workers against false propaganda being done by cigarette companies;

(b) if so, whether this misleading re port on comparitive demerits of beedis have been planted in the newspapers;

(c) whether Government have underta ken any enquiry into the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No such representation has been received.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Mishra Committee on coal shortage

63. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the R.N. Mishra Committee set up by Government to probe into the coal stock shortage during the period 1983—92 has submitted its report;

(b) if so, when the Committee was set up and when did it submit its report;

(c) what are the main recommendations made by the Committee in its report; and

(d) what action Government have so far taken on each of the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGD-1SH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The Government set up a Committee on 27.7.92 under the Chairmanship of Shri R.N. Mishra, the then Chairman-cum-Manag-ing Director, Northern Coalfields Limited to carry out an indepth study into the shortages of coal stock in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL). The Committee submitted its report to the Government on 24.12.1993.

(c) The Committee recommended action against the officers found responsible for stock shortages in BCCL. The Committee also recommended investigation into over-reporting of overburden removal, special stock verification in certain collieries, investigation into possibilities of pilferage of diesel and explosives, reivew of incentive awards and introduction of measures for systems improvement.

,(d) As per the latest information received from the Coal India Limited (CIL), action has been completed against 74 out of 158 officers against whom action was to be initiated by CIL and BCCL. Most of the systems improvement measures recommended by the Committee have been implemented by CIL.